

# The Fire Fighter Gazette

Issue 19

June 2000

## Last Issue of the Fire Fighter Gazette!

...we must adapt or face the possibility of being taken over by someone who can do this process faster, cheaper and more efficiently.

We are happy to report that we will no longer be mailing you the *Fire Fighter Gazette*. Yes, that is right, I said happy... why, do you ask?

As we move to a paperless society, we must adapt or face the possibility of being taken over by someone who can do this process faster, cheaper and more efficiently. Writing the Gazette is really a fairly easy process. Folks such as yourself send me information that is interesting to the Air Force fire protection community, and I reprint it and send it out. Herein lies the problem. The cost of re-producing and mailing the *Gazette* is not cheap. We purchased the *Adobe* software specifically so that we can post the paper on our web site, so now we want to shrink our mailing list, especially if you have access to the net. So will we stop printing the *Gazette*? Certainly not. We simply want to find a more cost effective way to serve our customers. My email address at the Air Force Academy Fire Department is:

ernst.piercy@usafa.af.mil

Our web site address is:

www.usafa.af.mil/fire-dept

So, here are the ground rules, if you would



like to continue to receive this publication:

1. Send me an e-mail, and let me know whether or not I can remove you from the "hard copy" mailing list.
2. Let me know if you would like an e-mail notification when a new edition of the Gazette is placed on the web.

We understand that your fire department may not have the computer resources to make this transition yet, if not, that's OK, we will continue to mail some copies out, but would really like to pare the list down to a manageable level!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

*The staff at the Fire Fighter Gazette*

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## Accreditation — Worth the Work?

Two years ago I began to read information about fire department accreditation and wondered, “What will this do for me?” I asked a skeptical fire chief if I could attend a training seminar in Clarke County, Nevada (never admit you are going to Las Vegas), and he let me go. I sat through the *Accreditation Workshop*, still wondering if the benefits outweighed the amount of work this was about to create for me. The longer I wondered, the more I realized that we were already doing most of the tasks in the manual, but were not adequately documenting our programs (sound familiar?). We decided to see if we could tame this beast.

Our first step in this process was the formation of an accreditation team. We held meetings in our fire training area (a remote building, away from civilization, telephones, FAX machines and e-mail), even serving fruit and bagels to ensure folks showed up. The first several meetings, we were still deciding what direction to go in, and in retrospect, I have this to offer – build the “big 3” first! Each fire department requires three important documents to become accredited – a Strategic Plan, Goals and Objectives, and your Standards of Response Coverage. If you don’t build these, you will never finish the rest of this project. Now, here is the caveat – this is by far the most difficult part of this project. You will become discouraged as you struggle to produce quality documents that reflect your departmental programs, but they are worth the work. After these documents are done, break the manual into manageable pieces. We tried at first to give entire criteria to individuals or teams, and found that perhaps they were only “functional experts” for portions of the criteria, so we broke them down further. The more we worked, the more we realized our fire department was in pretty good shape.

We are now nearing the end line, and have asked the peer assessment team to come visit us. Do you ever wonder what goes through the minds of professional football players on Superbowl Sunday? I think I have a better understanding. I am nervously awaiting their arrival, and hope we have answered the criteria and performance indicators in a manner that reflects our professionalism and commitment. But was it worth the work? I think so. There are those that will say, “It’s just another certificate for the wall”, but I disagree. We have built a superb continuity program here at the Air Force Academy, standardizing our programs to reflect national efforts, and are ready to share what we have learned with the world. You know, a wise man once said, “If you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he is enjoying the view. You also know he didn’t get there by himself.” Thanks to the team of professionals at the Air Force Academy, we are enjoying the view. And to **SMSgt Ken Helgersen** (on his way to the tip of the spear – Kunsan AB, Korea), we couldn’t have done this without your relentless drive and personal commitment. You will be missed at the Air Force Academy.

## Sanborn Winner

For those of you who may not have already heard, the winner of the CMSgt Ralph E. Sanborn Award for the Best Fire Protection Flight in the Air Force is **Ramstein AB**, Germany!

Here is a synopsis of some of the write-ups that helped win this prestigious award:

**Incident Responses:** *Biggest, busiest and best home station and deployed fire fighters in DOD.*

- Made OPERATION ALLIED FORCE happen! 200 percent increase in air traffic, 69 emergencies, 341 DVs, 1,196 missions, 57K short-tons and 14,097 passengers; zero fire loss—fire fighters did it all!
- Saved 31 apartments from destruction and stopped fire dead in its tracks; limited loss to under \$25K.
- Major dormitory fire; pregnant soldier hanging out of third floor window—immediate action required.
  - Crews bravely entered the smoke-filled structure, found victim; super training/ladder rescue paid off!
- Dispatcher saved a life; talked a frantic caller through the steps of one-person CPR—successful results!

**Cost Effective Measures:** *Innovative approaches MADE money while reducing operating costs*

- Fireman built the 86AW mobile command post—critical disaster response asset—saved \$250K over purchase
- Found/fixed faulty fire detection design in 200+ houses; cut false alarm rate—saved \$1K per alarm
- Programmed for the new “Quint” apparatus—saved \$1M; one apparatus replaced three—tech trend setters!

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Sanborn...

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Achievements:** *DoD's busiest fire fighters! 2,774 man-days supporting all US/NATO services*

- 48 of Ramstein's finest fire fighters provided one of the largest fire protection mobility teams in the United States Air Force.
- Curtin Award Champions! Instrumental in winning the 1998 USAF large base Curtin Award—WOW!
- Fitness a top priority! First-ever active USAF team to qualify for Combat Challenge World Cup

**Quality Management:** *Raised the performance bar across USAFE; process improvement champs*

- Implemented Rescue Engine concept, doubled community rescue capability—more with less, we did IT!
- Installed "Class K" extinguishers in commercial kitchens; reduced loss potential; another USAFE first!

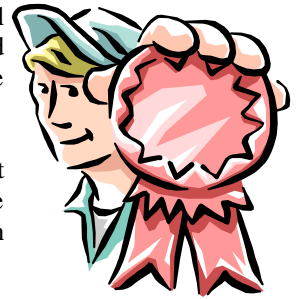
**Quality of Life:** *Rehabilitated older fire stations, improved training practices and morale builders!*

- Junior fire fighters organized largest and best received fire fighter's ball ever; esprit de corps impetus
- Relocated from a Cold War era facility to a temporary facility; accelerated funding for new facility
- Orchestrated recall paging system—stopped cancellation of days off; stabilized lives/improved morale

**Words from Chief Terry Ford:** *This award belongs to the 209 fire fighters—they busted their butts in Albania and all over the world. They totally impressed me!* (Chief Ford has since moved USAFE headquarters and Chief Charlie Cain is now the fire chief at Ramstein)

## More Awards!

Here are some more annual awards that fire fighters and their organizations have garnered recently:



The Chief Master Sergeant Ralph E. Sanborn Award (the best fire protection flight in the Air Force):

Winner: 86 Civil Engineer Squadron, **Ramstein Air Base, Germany** (USAFE)

Runner-Up: 30 Civil Engineer Squadron, **Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA** (AFSPC)

The Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineering Unit Award (The Curtin Award, named for the former director of Air Force Civil Engineering Major General Robert H. Curtin):

Large Base: 49 Civil Engineer Squadron, **Holloman Air Force Base, NM** (ACC).

The runner-up was the 52 Civil Engineer Squadron, **Spangdahlem, Air Base, Germany** (USAFE).

Small Base: 56 Civil Engineer Squadron, **Luke Air Force Base, AZ** (AETC).

The runner-up was the 341 Civil Engineer Squadron, **Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana** (AFSPC).

## Fire Officer IV — A worthwhile Challenge!

Well, I finally finished it. In late 1998, I decided to embark upon a lengthy journey — to complete the CDC course for Fire Officer IV.

The certification process may be broken into three sections — the ECI test, the research papers, and the fire protection study.

The ECI course was pretty standard, although I was pleased to find out that studying was required to successfully pass the test. Many of us believe we have this stuff figured out, but the more I read my guide sheets, the more I realized I had better study to pass this course.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Pay Disparity?

On 12 Jan 2000, Ms Cindy Williams wrote a piece for the Washington Times denouncing the pay raise(s) coming service members way this year -- citing that the stated 13% wage gap was bogus. A young airman from Hill AFB responds to her article below....

Ms. Williams:

I just had the pleasure of reading your column of 12 Jan 00, "Our GIs Earn Enough," and I am a bit confused. Frankly, I'm wondering where this vaunted overpayment is going, because as far as I can tell, it disappears every month between DFAS (The Defense Finance and Accounting Service) and my bank account. Checking my latest leave and earnings statement (LES), I see that I make \$1,117.80, before taxes. After taxes, I take home \$874.20. When I run that through Windows' Calculator, I come up with an annual salary of \$13,413.60 before taxes, and \$10,490.40 after.

I work in the Air Force Network Control Center (AFNCC), where I am part of the team responsible for the administration of a 25,000-host computer network.

I am involved with infrastructure management, specifically with Cisco Systems equipment. A quick check of <http://www.monster.com> under jobs for Network Technicians in the Washington, D.C. area reveals a position in my career field, requiring three years' experience with my job. Amazingly, this job does NOT pay \$13,413.60 a year, nor does it pay less than this. No, this job is being offered at \$70,000 to \$80,000 per annum. I'm sure you can draw the obvious conclusions.

Also, you tout increases to Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Sustenance (housing and food allowances, respectively) as being a further boon to an already-overcompensated force. Again, I'm curious as to where this money has gone, as BAH and BAS were both slashed 15% in the Hill AFB area effective in January 00.

Given the tenor of your column, I would assume that you have never had the pleasure of serving your country in her armed forces. Before you take it upon yourself to once more castigate congressional and DOD leadership for attempting to

get the families in the military's lowest pay brackets of AFDC, WIC, and food stamps, I suggest that you join a group of deploying soldiers headed for Saudi -- I leave the choice of service branch up to you.

Whatever choice you make, though, opt for the six month rotation: it will guarantee you the longest possible time away from your family and friends, thus giving you the full "deployment experience." As your group prepares to board the plane, make sure to note the spouses and children who are saying goodbye to their loved ones. Also take care to note that several families are still unsure of how they'll be able to make ends meet while the primary breadwinner is gone -- obviously they've been squandering the vast piles of cash the DoD has been giving them.

Try to deploy over a major holiday; Christmas and Thanksgiving are perennial favorites. And when you're actually over there, sitting in a DFP (Defensive Fire Position, the modern-day foxhole), shivering against the cold desert night, and the flight sergeant tells you that there aren't enough people on shift to relieve you for chow, remember this: trade whatever MRE you manage to get for the tuna noodle casserole or cheese tortellini, and add Tabasco to everything.

Talk to your loved ones as often as you are permitted; it won't nearly be long enough or often enough, but take what you can get and be thankful for it. You may have picked up on the fact that I disagree with most of the points you present in your op-ed piece. But, tomorrow from Voltaire, I will defend to the death your right to say it. You see, I am an American fighting man, a guarantor of your First Amendment rights and every other right you cherish. On a daily basis, my brother and sister soldiers worldwide ensure that you and people like you can thumb your collective nose at us, all on a salary that is nothing short of pitiful and under conditions that would make most people cringe. We hemorrhage our best and brightest into the private sector because we can't offer the stability and pay of civilian companies.

And you, Ms. Williams, have the gall to say that we make more than we deserve?

Rubbish.

A1C Michael Bragg

Hill AFB AFNCC

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## SENIOR FIRE OFFICER COMPLETES EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

EMMITSBURG, MD. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Academy (NFA) announced today that Fire Chief **Robert M. Schultz** (Hill AFB, UT) successfully completed the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP).

"The intensive EFOP is designed to provide senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facts of fire administration," according to FEMA Director James Lee Witt. "This program provides fire service officers with the expertise they need to succeed in today's challenging environment."

Each of the four courses required a written Applied Research Project (ARP) to demonstrate application of course theory and concepts to real life situation within the student's own organization. Each of these projects were evaluated through a formal process, and progression through the program was contingent on achieving each of those milestones.

U.S. Fire Administrator Carrye Brown Stated, "It is important that these senior fire executives apply what they have learned in the classroom to existing situations in their own communities. This makes completion of the EFOP and the Applied Research Projects particularly valuable to these fire service leaders."

Six months after completion of each of the courses, the EFOP participants were required to complete an ARP in their own organizational effectiveness.

Executive Development, the entry-level course, emphasizes team development and consensus decision making to enhance organizational effectiveness.

The next course in the sequence, Strategic Management of Change, provides a change management model to assist senior fire executives who must adapt to rapid technological and functional changes related to the delivery of fire and emergency services.

For the third year, participants can select one of five courses that will enhance their planning, analysis, management, emergency medical services, and leadership skills.

The final course, Executive Leadership, examines all aspects of executive-level leadership and ties together the educational experiences of the three previous years.

NFA offers a wide array of programs and courses for fire service and allied professions. Courses are delivered on campus as well as throughout the Nation in coordination with State and local fire training officials and local colleges and universities.

## Fire Officer IV ...

*(Continued from page 3)*

It is amazing how much I have forgotten! The research papers were equally as challenging. I read about things that I probably won't have to deal with every day, but they gave me a unique perspective, not only on our fire department, but how our civilian counterparts conduct business.

The Fire Protection Study was by far the most difficult part of this project. When I first began to write the *study*, I realized I was wasting a lot of time trying to write a *report*. This is not at all what this project requires. The Fire Officer IV special project requires you to perform an in-depth fire risk analysis of your installation for the last five years. Included in this document are known and expected risks, resources available, maps, charts, and just about everything else you can think of related to your department. Just when you think you are done, you must prepare a class to give to the toughest audience of them all — your peers. That's right, everything in the study must be presented to your own fire department — if you don't think they are a tough audience...then you can finally mail your package in to AFCESA and eagerly await the results. Do be patient, however, since your package is not the only one being evaluated! Expect about a 90 day turn around.



Article by Fire  
Officer IV  
Ernst Piercy,  
Air Force Academy Fire Department

## Special K Extinguishers

In November 1994, Underwriter's Laboratories began research on the effects of different agents used to extinguish deep fat fryer, broiler, grill and oven fires. The research provided detailed information on the effects of each agent used and provided recommendations for the new UL 300 Standard recently adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 10, 1998 edition. All of today's equipment must meet the new standard.

Several factors used in this testing led to significant changes. Fire tests were performed to determine how long it would take for a sprinkler system, dry chemical system, and a wet chemical system to extinguish boiling liquid cooking fires. All testing was accomplished using a deep fat fryer as required by the new standard. These tests displayed the ineffectiveness of certain types of agents on cooking fires (vegetable oils, animal oils and other fats). The tests resulted in a new fire classification...the **Class K** fire.

Tests utilized a two-minute fryer pre-burn to ensure the fire demonstrated true burning characteristics. New requirements mandate a deep fat fryer have a minimum heat up rate of 12 degrees per minute, and a maximum cool-down rate of 5 degrees per minute. The cooking oil auto-ignition temperature must be at least 685 degrees. The oil was heated to its auto-ignition and allowed to burn for two minutes. The fuel source remained constant. Fire duration continued until the flame reached the discharge nozzle. At the two-minute mark the extinguishing system actuated. Note: Throughout discharge no oil splash is allowed outside the perimeter of the cooking appliance.

Wet chemical provides no splash. The fire was extinguished in seconds and provided a cooling effect as well a blanket to prevent re-ignition. The new UL 300 Standard requires the agent to provide a foam blanket. Blanket integrity must be maintained for a minimum of 20 minutes.

The previous UL 300 did not include this stringent requirement. Mock-up appliances did not include specific heat up rates. Also, these appliances were not insulated and cooled very fast. Additionally, the auto-ignition temperature previously required was 650 degrees. Unlike the new UL 300 standard, the fuel source was removed after ignition resulting in a pre-burn of only one-minute, again not truly simulating a fire in these types of appliances. The old test required only a 5-minute blanket resulting in easier compliance due to the lower temperature and no foam blanket degradation.

The new UL 300 standard more closely simulates real world fires in these appliances than the old UL 300 requirements did.

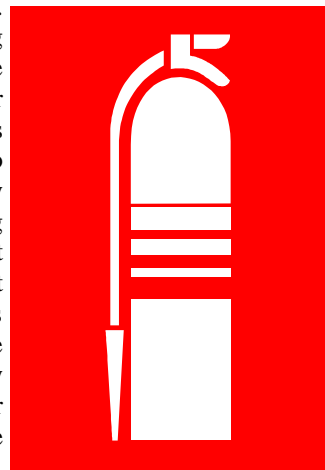
In the dry chemical system test, it took almost 1.5 minutes to completely extinguish the fire. Dry chemical provided no cooling effect and did not provide the necessary blanket. It was also noted in the test that dry chemical-extinguishing agents caused splashing over the edges of the deep fat fryer. The final test was performed on an UL approved sprinkler

system (water nozzle test). The same protocol listing was performed to allow the fire to reach the sprinkler head (It took 120 seconds for the sprinkler head to operate). The water spray intensified the fire proving water spray systems do not achieve rapid containment and extinguishment as required. The spray nozzle system was allowed to spray onto the deep fat fryer for over 6.5 minutes before extinguishment.

How does this affect the fire protection community? Most companies providing service for dry chemical systems will no longer provide parts to repair these systems. Effective 1 Jan 99, Ansul Corporation will no longer sell, service parts, or support the sale or service of the R-101 Dry Chemical Restaurant Fire Suppression System. Consider contacting your system contractor(s) for status on equipment repair. If contractors can no longer provide service, repairs, and recharge, consider applying a Fire Safety Deficiency to these facilities.

Insure new systems are installed per NFPA 10 & 17A. The National Fire Protection Association recently updated NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers to include wet chemical extinguishers in kitchens. NFPA 10 (1998 ed.) includes the following references, which may help justify your FSD. (Paragraph's 2-3.2, 2-3.2.1, 2-3.2.1, 3-7.1, 3-7.2, A-2-3.2, C-2.4, and D-4.7) Replace Dry Chemical fire extinguishers with Wet Chemical fire extinguishers through attrition. To expedite extinguisher replacement, consider including new wet-chemical extinguishers in the system replacement contract. The cost of replacing the system is approximately \$3K

For further information contact Mr. John P. Gilmore, 341 CES/CEFT, Malmstrom AFB MT, (DSN) 632-4836 or internet: John.Gilmore@Malmstrom.af.mil



## CerTest experiences Y2K Bug

Having trouble running reports in your CerTest program? According to Dan Herr, Powertrain, Inc., the problems is this version requires you to put all four digits of the year (2000) when entering the parameters for the report you want to run. So, if your reports are coming back as blank (as if no one was testing), re-run them using the year "2000", and you'll find the reports work just fine!

# Stuff...

## Recent moves in fire protection

GRADE	NEW DUTY LOCATION	SELECTEE	LOSING BASE
9	Eglin	William F. Barrow	Eglin
9	Fairford UK	Scott O. Cooner	Eglin
9	Minot	Irvin E. Prough	Minot
9	Offutt	David G. Eblin	Offutt
10	MacDill	Ralph Espinosa	MacDill
10	Seymour Johnson	Wesley Robison	Sheppard
10	Sheppard	Jeffrey K. Orf	Sheppard
10	Patrick	Dallas More	Patrick
10	Seymour Johnson	Kriste Sly	Edwards
11	Davis Monthan	Everett Allen	Davis Monthan
11	Hanscom	Michael Bellemarr	Hanscom
11	Ramstein	Paul Cortez	Luke
12	Kelly	Abe Simpkins	Kelly
12	McChord	Robert Vettleson	McChord
13	Ramstein	Charlie Cain	Randolph

## Trivia

### What does the P stand for in P- (??) vehicle type?

The "A/S32P-XX" can be translated as follows:

**A**=Aerospace Vehicle  
**S**=Ground, Self Propelled (includes vehicles)

**32**=Mechanical

**P**=Protection

**xx**=a sequential number (such as P-2, P-4, P-23, etc)

The table of "equipment indicators" comes out of a military standard (MIL-STD-1812) and appears in Appendix C of that standard.

Answer provided by Mary Zampa, WRALC/LE

## Vacancy in Diego Garcia

I have a two station fire house. One structural station and one combined structural and crash/rescue at the airfield. Workforce is all Filipino except for a chief and two assistant chiefs. Salary of \$35-\$40 K doesn't sound like much, but consider it is tax free, all meals, lodging, laundry, haircuts and transportation are provided. Also, my fire officers are all retired from civil service/military or both so this is 2nd or 3rd income. Am looking for a fire chief this summer. One year tour but could go as long as six separate one year tours. R&R at the six month point and leave at completion of each year. Diego Garcia is a beautiful place with world class deep sea fishing, sailing, windsurfing and loads of other recreational opportunities. We live very comfortably. My internet address is mleonard@cwnetdg.io Mike Leonard (Colonel, Retired, USMC)

Anyone interested in future Airport Fire Fighter job openings at the **Omaha Airport**, please e-mail resumes to:  
omahaarff@aol.com  
Resumes only, No phone calls!

## Vacancy in Moron, Spain

Job Vacancy for J.A. Jones Management Services at Moron Air Base. Assistant Fire Chief for Operations. High School Graduate or equivalent. Minimum of ten years fire fighting experience in function that provides fire suppression service. At least 3 of the 10 years shall have been in an organization that provides aircraft crash, fire and rescue services. Shall have a minimum of 2 years of supervision of fire fighting. Spanish at USAF level 3. Please send resume to Human Resources Manager.

Phone: (from outside Spain) 011-34-955-848449/Fax: 011-34-955-848007.  
internet: HR.JONES@teleline.es/EA.JONES@teleline.es

## Final alarm

Mr. George Telford passed away on Saturday, 29 January 2000. Many of you remember George from his service at Strategic Air Command and Air Force Systems Command. He was well known within the Fire Fighting Community and maintained a wealth of knowledge and experience in fire suppression and detection systems. He will be missed.

George F. Hall